

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
PO Box 193766
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



CONTACT:

Stanley P. Stephenson (415) 975-4373
Nancy A. Treadwell (415) 975-4403

Internet address: <http://stats.bls.gov/ro9news.htm>

BLS 00-36
FOR RELEASE:
Wednesday, June 14, 2000
Fax-On-Demand code: 9180

SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: MAY 2000 **GROCERY PRICES AND ENERGY COSTS DECLINE WHILE SHELTER COSTS INCREASE**

Grocery prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), dipped 1.5 percent in May. However, over the past year, grocery prices have increased 1.2 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics said the food at home index now stands at 170.4. This means grocery shoppers in the greater Seattle area need to spend \$170.40 today for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area prices are not seasonally adjusted.

Influenced by lower gasoline prices, the special aggregate index for energy dropped 1.9 percent in May, yet measures a 12.3 percent gain from a year ago. Consumers paid 3.1 percent less for gasoline in May, following three consecutive months of substantial increases. The over-the-month decrease was the largest since June 1999 when it fell 4.3 percent. Despite the decline in May, gasoline prices are 16.2 percent higher than last year's level. Also in energy, the cost of household electricity and utility natural gas showed no change this month. The broader household fuels expenditure category showed a modest decline of 0.1 percent in May.

Shelter costs increased 0.8 percent this month, matching the monthly increase in April. In the past 12 months, shelter costs are up 3.5 percent. In May, rent of primary residence and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence increased 0.3 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2000	Apr. 2000	May 2000	May 1999	Mar. 2000	Apr. 2000
Expenditure category						
All items	-	177.7	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	541.6	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	172.9	-	-	-	-
Food	-	173.5	-	-	-	-
Food at home	173.8	173.0	170.4	1.2	-2.0	-1.5
Food away from home	-	175.9	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	168.4	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	182.1	-	-	-	-
Shelter	199.0	200.5	202.2	3.5	1.6	.8
Rent of primary residence (1).....	190.2	190.8	191.4	3.2	.6	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	206.3	207.4	208.6	3.6	1.1	.6
Fuels and utilities	-	126.9	-	-	-	-
Fuels	125.4	120.9	120.8	7.2	-3.7	-.1
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	150.3	145.3	145.3	6.7	-3.3	.0
Electricity (1).....	163.7	156.4	156.4	4.1	-4.5	.0
Utility natural gas service (1).....	100.3	100.3	100.3	14.6	.0	.0
Household furnishings and operations	-	167.3	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	131.1	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	158.5	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	163.0	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	152.0	159.8	155.0	16.3	2.0	-3.0
Gasoline (all types)	154.8	162.9	157.9	16.2	2.0	-3.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	157.8	166.7	161.0	17.0	2.0	-3.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	134.0	140.5	136.5	15.4	1.9	-2.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	157.0	163.8	160.0	14.5	1.9	-2.3
Medical care	-	242.8	-	-	-	-
Recreation (5).....	-	100.7	-	-	-	-
Education and communication (5).....	-	103.3	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	265.0	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2000	Apr. 2000	May 2000	May 1999	Mar. 2000	Apr. 2000
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	177.7	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	156.7	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	147.8	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	149.6	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	146.4	-	-	-	-
Services	-	198.0	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	174.5	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	169.8	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	148.5	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	161.1	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	150.6	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter (2)	-	200.3	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	194.4	-	-	-	-
Energy	139.8	141.8	139.1	12.3	-0.5	-1.9
All items less energy	-	182.4	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	184.5	-	-	-	-

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.